

State plan to oust Detroit school board draws fire

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Saturday, February 20, 1999

Author: JUSTIN HYDE, Associated Press Writer

For years, the **Detroit school** district has been like the straight-D student who always promises to do better on the next homework assignment, then turns it in late and half-done.

Now Gov. John Engler is vowing to change that by asking the Legislature to abolish the elected **school** board and give Mayor Dennis Archer the power to appoint a new one.

Detroit schools to add more rigorous academics

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Thursday, June 18, 2009

Author: COREY WILLIAMS ; Associated Press Writer

Tougher teaching standards are coming to **Detroit Public Schools** classrooms as early as this fall as the district seeks to push learning closer to national standards.

The district, which historically has had one of the poorest graduation rates in the country, is designing programs to increase the level of academics and prepare students to compete in a global economy,

Detroit schools may go broke, state overseer says

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Monday, June 29, 2009

The financial situation of the **Detroit Public Schools** is so bad the district may have to file for bankruptcy, a state-appointed overseer said Monday.

Robert Bobb said the district will enter the next **school** year with a deficit of about \$259 million, down from the projected \$430 million deficit.

Officials mull bankruptcy for Detroit schools

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Thursday, July 9, 2009

Author: COREY WILLIAMS ; Associated Press Writer

The Detroit Public **Schools** had more than \$103 million in reserves in 2002. But the money was gone two years later as the district began a dizzying financial fall that has led officials to consider filing Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

Detroit schools official: Deficit could top \$259M

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Wednesday, July 29, 2009

The state appointee in charge of the **Detroit Public Schools** ' budget says the district's \$259 million deficit may grow.

Bobb seeks change to Detroit Schools dismal legacy

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Author: COREY WILLIAMS ; Associated Press Writer

Bobb, appointed overseer of **Detroit Schools** ' finances by Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, has been getting rid of dead weight since taking over in March.

Detroit is budgeting for 83,777 students, about 10,000 fewer than last September when enrollment dropped below 100,000. Each student who leaves means a loss of \$7,550 in state funding. The district would get an additional \$7.5 million if 1,000 students returned.

Even if he can't bring money back into the state's largest district, Bobb is determined to stop what scant resources he has from being stolen.

Among the five former employees charged Wednesday by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy was a clerical worker at an elementary **school** who allegedly wrote herself 15 checks and made 17 withdrawals from district accounts that netted her more than \$25,000.

Also charged were a high **school** teacher's aide, a food service coordinator at an elementary **school** , a truck driver and a district controls office worker.

"My office was not surprised about the culture of corruption that we've been seeing in the past in the **Detroit Public Schools** system," Worthy told reporters. "What did surprise even us, though ... is how rampant, how overt and how conspicuous and downright bold-faced the corruption is, allegedly, in some of the cases that we've been looking at."

Detroit school safety topic of round-table event

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Monday, August 17, 2009

Author: COREY WILLIAMS ; Associated Press Writer

The past 10 months have been dangerous and deadly in the **Detroit Public Schools** with two students slain and at least eight others wounded during a spate of shootings that prompted a community round table to find solutions.

The beleaguered district already is struggling with a host of other troubles that include a \$259 million budget deficit, plummeting enrollment and one of the nation's lowest graduation rates.

"Do we have problems? The answer is absolutely, yes," Mayor Dave Bing told the more than 200 people who turned out for Monday's event at Cass Technical High **School** . "Do we have solutions to solve some of them? The answer is absolutely,

\$32M in improvements being made to Detroit Schools

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Monday, August 24, 2009

Improvements are being made this summer and fall to 42 of **Detroit** 's 172 **public schools** , costing \$32 million.

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Robert Bobb may want to remain in control of the **Detroit Public Schools** ' finances for at least one more year.

The emergency financial manager says on WJR-AM's Paul W. Smith show Wednesday that his goal is to stay in **Detroit** past his current \$260,000 deal that ends March 1.

Bobb used the "I'm in" student retention campaign slogan to reveal his intentions. He launched the campaign this summer to persuade parents to keep their children in the district or bring them back. He told WJR that continuity is important to move the district forward.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed Bobb in March. He is restructuring the district while trying to reduce a \$259 million budget deficit.

Detroit News, The (MI) - Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Author: Santiago Esparza

By Santiago Esparza

The **Detroit News**

Detroit — Milton Howard, a security guard at Osborn Educational Center, was discussing truancy issues with a colleague on a recent morning when he saw something that stopped him midsentence.

A teen wearing the white polo shirt of an upperclassman appeared to be making a beeline for the gas station across the street that serves as a frequent hangout for truants.

Within seconds, Howard had corralled the teen and helped guide him back to class.

"If they are in class, they are not in trouble," Osborn Principal Thomas Parker said as he, too, kept watch for stray students.

The crackdown on truancy at Osborn is just one way **school** officials throughout **Detroit Public Schools** are trying to head off the violence that has plagued the district's estimated 84,000 to 88,000 students.

Following a spate of high-profile shootings in or near **schools** that have left one student dead and at least nine people injured since January, the district launched a massive overhaul of safety protocols in an effort to curb violence and make **schools** more secure.

Detroit Police and district officials vowed an increased presence through more efficient deployment following the shooting of seven teens in June as they stood at a bus stop near Cody Ninth Grade Academy. Five of the victims were students.

In June, a 16-year-old Denby High **School** student survived being shot in the chest after leaving summer classes.

A gunfight broke out in the halls of Central High **School** in February between nonstudents who entered the building. Last year, a student was shot to death while walking home from Henry Ford High **School**.

But for each high-profile shooting, there are hundreds of assaults and other violent crimes on **school** campuses that go unreported each year.

The city's Police Department responded to reports of 68 robberies, 1,189 fights and 30 concealed weapons offenses in district **schools** from July 2008 to April 2009, **Detroit** Police 2nd Deputy

Chief John Roach said. District Police report that assaults on students dropped from 1,186 in the first half of 2005-06 to 864 in the first half of the following year.

Youth face uphill struggle amid Detroit 's troubles

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Saturday, October 17, 2009

Detroit high **school** students historically have done poorly on standardized tests. For example, 32 percent of 11th graders met or exceeded reading standards and only 14 percent did the same in math on the 2007 Michigan Merit Examination. Statewide averages were 60 percent in reading and 47 percent in math.

District records show fewer than six of 10 high **school** seniors graduated in 2008, while the dropout rate was just over 27 percent.

An emergency financial manager appointed in March by Gov. Jennifer Granholm is restructuring the **schools** to improve education and student safety while trying to reduce a \$259 million.

416 Detroit students graduate after summer session

Associated Press: Detroit Metro Area (MI) - Friday, July 24, 2009

More than 400 students have graduated from **Detroit Public Schools** after completing classwork in a historic summer program.

The ceremony for the 416 graduates was held Friday.

The struggling district used \$52 million in Title I program funds to hold the emergency summer **school** academies for about 33,000 students. Needy students were able to take up to three classes without cost. Those classes cost \$200 each in past summers to attend.

District Highlights

Detroit has five of the best public high schools in America.

Detroit Public Schools employs more certified teachers than charter schools.

1 in 17 students enrolled in public schools throughout the State of Michigan chose to attend a Detroit Public School. Last year, DPS graduates earned \$54.7 million in scholarships and grants.

Allied Health Middle College High School students can graduate with a high school diploma, an associate's degree, and training in a marketable health organization.

In Detroit, there's a school or program for every student.

DPS students lead the state in the number of National Achievement Scholarship winners.

Davis Technical Aerospace High School students can earn their pilot's license as soon as they're old enough to drive.

Michigan's only two single-gender public high schools are a part of the Detroit Public School System.

Our foreign language immersion and cultural studies school (FLICS) offers total language immersion in French, Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese. Last year, 384 DPS students graduated with a 3.5 grade point average or higher